



Musgrave stands for property owners, against Eminent Domain

Joins liberals and conservatives in supporting congressional response to Supreme Court's expansion of private property grabs by government

Washington, DC: In response to this Summer's decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to allow local government entities to take private property for the purpose economic development, Representative Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04) participated in a congressional hearing about legislation addressing the expansion of eminent domain powers. Musgrave is an unswerving proponent of private property rights and, today, spoke strongly against the court's recent ruling and co-sponsored recently introduced legislation.

"The Supreme Court's broadening of the Fifth Amendment 'taking' clause could have severe consequences for home and business owners in our local communities," said Musgrave. "The defense of property rights is one of the fundamental parts of a viable government and what separates us from tyrants in other countries. While nobody expects this ruling to turn the U.S. into a place like Sudan or Russia, hardworking families in Colorado are now less equipped to prevent the government seizure of their homes for the simple sake of raising tax revenues."

"In the areas of Colorado I represent, there is private property in small mountain towns, rural areas, and along the Arkansas River that could be taken by aggressive government officials. Next to high gas prices, this is one of the most talked about issues raised when I talk with Colorado residents."

As a Member of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Congresswoman Musgrave joined the bi-partisan debate during the committee's hearing today. In addition to debating the Supreme Court's ruling in *Kelo v. City of New London*, the hearing focus on H.R. 3405, the Strengthening The Ownership of Private Property Act of 2005. This bill was introduced by Agriculture Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) to prevent federal economic development funding for local and state projects where eminent domain powers are abused by the taking of property for private economic development.

Musgrave joined as a co-sponsor of H.R. 3405 after today's hearing. It has strong bi-partisan support. Liberals and conservatives are coming together to decry the *Kelo* ruling, including Representatives like Maxine Waters (D-CA) and Henry Bonilla (D-TX).

Testifying before the Agriculture Committee, Rep. Waters stated, "We must push back against members of local bureaucracies that would create environments within which developers who wish to build are favored and landowners are disadvantaged."

On June 23, 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Kelo v. City of New London* case expanded the power of eminent domain and relaxed the definition of "public use" to allow governments to take private property and give it to another private entity for "economic development." The term "public use" has traditionally been associated with projects such as schools, roads, public parks and right of way access for utilities. In New London, CT, it was used to build a hotel, shopping areas, parking, and a riverwalk.